

Attorney Docket No.: **IRF0037US.NP**
Inventors: **Fredericksen et al.**
Serial No.: **10/591,841**
Filing Date: **December 26, 2006**
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REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the instant application.
Claims 1-4 have been rejected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0119359).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The pending claims recite a separator plate with two interconnected manifolds for **each** reactant supply and outflow. This is taught in the specification at paragraphs [0028] and [0029]. Further, the duplicate manifolds for supply and exhaust of air are depicted in Figures 1a and 1b as elements 15 and 32 (air supply) and elements 19 and 30 (air exhaust), respectively. The duplicate manifolds for supply and exhaust of fuel are depicted in Figures 1a and 1b as elements 25 and 31 (fuel supply) and elements 22 and 17 (fuel exhaust), respectively.

The cited art of Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0119359) does not teach or suggest an arrangement where the manifolds for supply and exhaust of each fluid are doubled in this manner.

MPEP 2131 and the case law are clear; to anticipate a claim, a reference must teach every element of the claimed invention. Since Yamazaki et al. does not teach every

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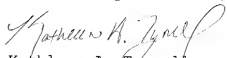
element of claim 1, this reference cannot anticipate claim 1 nor claims 2-4 dependent therefrom.

Withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and subsequent allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Kathleen A. Tyrrell
Registration No. 38,350

Date: July 10, 2009

Licata & Tyrrell P.C.
66 E. Main Street
Marlton, New Jersey 08053

856-810-1515